months up to June 1952 an average of 427 civil aircraft and 122 military planes passed through Bahrain each month while in the year 1951 some 11,897 passengers entered Bahrain by air. As well as being connected with all parts of the world by the major airlines, smaller local services form a network in the Persian Gulf by which it is possible and usual for local merchants to go to Qatar or Saudi Arabia in the morning and to return to Bahrain the same evening. Many people from Bahrain also spend the weekend with friends in the oil camps of other companies.

The sea has played an important part in Bahrain's history and with the coming of oil and the increased prosperity of the islanders both steamer and dhow traffic has increased. In the year 1951, 847 steamers and tankers and 1,416 local craft carried over 47,000 visitors to Bahrain, a figure equal to about 45% of the total population. The launches and sailing boats came to Manama, Muharraq and other coastal towns, while the steamers and tankers anchored at the Sitra Jetty or in the anchorage north of Manama. At present the only deep water wharves are those of the oil company.

## INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

Despite its small size, Bahrain and the islands of Muharraq and Sitra are provided with a large number of roads, but this can be accounted for by the presence among the date gardens of many villages as well as by the need for some form of communication with the scattered coastal settlements. Within the towns of Manama and Muharraq the main roads have excellent surfaces and are wide enough for the traffic they carry and the extensive paving that has recently been laid down has made them safer both for drivers and pedestrians.

From the town of Manama four main roads lead into the country ; to the south-east is Belgrave Road ; to the east, the Causeway ; to the south, Awal Road and to the west, Budaiya Road.

Belgrave Road becomes Jufair Road after passing through the new residential centre of Qudabiya, and the latter leads past the Race Course to the suburbs of Jufair and Umm al-Hasan.

A second road, Shaikh Isa Road, starts from the Sea Road near the Adviserate and follows a rather erratic course till it leaves the town near the Water Garden and Mental Hospital. From here it passes through four miles of date gardens, broken only by the open ground around the Suq al-Khamis Mosque, then across the bridge at Radhm al-Qawari and into the desert. The road then travels south through the pre-historic tumuli and rises till it passes through an avenue of trees that marks the village of Rifáa al-Gharbi, the winter residence of H.H. The Ruler. From here the road drops abruptly into the central depression and then reaches Awali, 11 miles from Manama. At Awali the road branches in three directions, a road to the east leads to the Refinery and Sitra Island, a second road to the west goes to Zellaq and the west coast of Bahrain and a third skirts Awali and continues

of colour and Arab life, and large modern stores stocked with every type of goods from America, Europe and the East. The spice bazaar, the second-hand bazaar behind the Municipality and the shops of the metal workers are typically oriental ; the stores in the larger streets with plate glass windows and fixed prices stock a wide range of modern goods which are generally cheaper than elsewhere in the Gulf owing to the low customs duty. Apart from pearls, mother-of-pearl, gold and silver thread embroidery and model dhows there are few purely local products for visitors to buy. The best way to see the bazaar is on foot, it provides innumerable subjects for photos and neither here nor anywhere else in Bahrain is there any objection to the taking of photos.

To the south-west of the town is the Qalat ad-Diwan, beyond it, along Awal Road, is the Isolation Hospital, the Public Health Department and a number of blocks of flats. Opposite them is a large garden with two miniature lakes, known as the Water Garden ; this is a popular place during summer evenings. Beyond the flats is the Mental Hospital. It is probable that within the next few years this area will undergo extensive development.

To the south-east is the district of Manama known as Quadabiya, up to a few years ago an area of barren sand and swamp land where mosquitos bred but which today is rapidly developing into a residential and entertainment centre. Going along Belgrave Road one passes the Secondary School and Hostel, the Palace and, where the road joins Jufair Road, many houses and bungalows occupied by employees of European commercial firms. Jufair Road then passes the Race Course and Gymkhana Club and terminates in the suburbs of Umm a-Hasan and Jufair ; at the latter are the headquarters of the Senior British Naval Officer, Persian Gulf and H.B.M.'s Political Residency.

In the modern districts of Manama there are many wide and well surfaced roads, lined with tree-shaded pavements, while here and there in the town waste plots of land have been made into little gardens with benches, lawns and fountains. Along the water-front runs Sea Road, joining the Muharraq Causeway with the State Hospital at its western end. The Muharraq Causeway took ten years to build, for it served as a relief project when there was unemployment in Bahrain. The Shaikh Hamed Swing Bridge was completed in 1942 by Messrs. Holloways Bros. Many of the principal buildings and offices in Bahrain are on the Sea Road and Prior Road, which is an inland road running parallel to it. In former times the sea extended far into the town, south even of Prior Road, but during the past twenty-five years much of the sea-shore has been reclaimed. In Muharraq similar work can be seen in progress, but in an earlier stage of development.

In the evenings, the busiest part of Manama is Belgrave Road and the part of Quadabiya to its east where there are four cinemas and many coffee-shops, as well as football fields. At sunset the people of the town can be seen strolling along the road to Jufair, or sitting on the benches that line the pavements, later returning to the cinemas

### TRAFFIC

494 363 Traffic regulations in Bahrain are much the same as those in force in England and the United States; there is a left hand rule of the road and the speed limit in built up areas is 20 m.p.h. Special care should be taken when driving through towns and villages in Bahrain for in common with other parts of the Arab world pedestrians consider the roads as well as the pavements as their property and behave accordingly. Donkey and cycle riders should also be treated with caution for they are apt to be rather reckless. In case of accidents the Bahrain State Police must be notified immediately, failure to do so is likely to involve the drivers in unnecessary trouble.

To drive in Bahrain it is necessary to hold a valid Bahrain driving licence. These are obtainable at the Traffic Department, Bahrain Police Fort, Manama, at a cost of Rs. 5 p.a. Holders of valid licences of countries adhering to the International Traffic Convention, which include England, the U.S.A. and France and most other countries, will be granted a Bahrain licence on production of their own one. In other cases, drivers are required to take out provisional licences, and after a period of one month may apply at the Traffic Office for a driving test. The usual regulations concerning passengers apply to learner drivers.

494 All owners of cars and motor cycles in Bahrain are required to register them annually or semi-annually at the Traffic Office. The fee for a car is Rs. 50 per annum, for motor cycles Rs. 12—8 per annum, both fees can be paid in one or two instalments. Failure to register or re-register cars or motor cycles is liable to involve their owners in pecuniary loss.

For further information about Bahrain traffic laws, car owners are advised to contact the Traffic Office, Bahrain Police Fort, Manama, or phone Manama 334.

### BANKS

153 There are at present two banks in Bahrain :

The British Bank of the Middle East, Prior Road, Manama ;
The Eastern Bank, Government Road, Manama.

These banks provide the usual facilities and arrange for such matters as foreign currency and the transference of drafts. In addition, there are in Manama and Muharraq a number of money changers who deal in most of the commoner forms of currency and who are willing to change money. Most shops will also oblige in this matter, particularly if offered dollars, but care should be taken that a reasonable rate of exchange is given.

### LIQUOR

273 Bahrain is a Moslem country and is therefore "dry," but non-Moslem residents have been granted the privilege of being permitted

## MUNICIPALITIES

### MANAMA MUNICIPALITY

(From the report of Mr. Mohamed Saleh Shater, Secretary of the Manama Municipality)

633 795 At the beginning of the year, owing to sectarian differences between Sunni and Shia members in 1371 which caused the resignation of the Shia members, Municipal affairs were being dealt with by a committee of Sunnis. This was the situation until the middle of the year when the Government succeeded in persuading the Shia members to resume their duties on the Council. They returned on the understanding that they would serve for only one year after which an election should be held.

During the latter part of the year the Council functioned in a more or less normal manner; by shelving all matters which might cause controversy between the sects the Council succeeded in performing its duties without serious differences. The situation, however, was not satisfactory.

633 **Finance.** The Financial Committee which drew up the budget was formed from the temporary Sunni committee. Estimated revenue for 1372 was Rs. 7,04,000 and expenditure was assessed at the same figure. The actual revenue exceeded the estimate by Rs. 1,16,000, the expenditure was Rs. 61,000 more than was expected and at the end of the year a surplus of revenue over expenditure amounting to Rs. 61,000 was added to the Reserve which was then Rs. 2,83,000.

651 1127 The increase in revenue was due to a great extent to higher receipts from house and shop taxes. There were many new buildings in the town and higher rents were charged for existing buildings, both for houses and shops. House taxes and shop taxes on buildings which are leased are charged on a percentage basis of the rent. Taxation on houses which are occupied by their owners is extremely low in comparison with that of rented premises. A large proportion of the rented houses are occupied by foreigners and most of the houses in which the owners live are occupied by people of the country.

425 653 368 During the year the Municipality sold land to the public at the price of Rs. 35,200 and it purchased a new fire engine for Rs. 48,000. The Government presented to the Municipality a motor-driven trailer fire pump and jeep, a rubbish carrying vehicle and a gully emptying vehicle.

364 **Municipal activities.** Town cleaning was effected during the year by two trucks and 30 donkey carts, town rubbish was utilised to reclaim a large portion of sea on the shore at Hora, opposite Cable and Wireless premises. The method of employing donkey carts to carry town refuse is not a satisfactory one. An order was placed in England during the summer for small rubbish-carrying vehicles which can be used in narrow streets.

363 A number of roads in the town were metalled, the area dealt with was about 380,000 square feet on which was used 480,000 cubic feet of stone and 105,000 cubic feet of sand, the whole costing approximately Rs. 1,76,000.

363 247 Some progress was made in widening streets in the bazaar area, 112 new street lights were installed and more trees were planted on the roads, unfortunately each year a number of trees are destroyed, by wind or sometimes by rain which when it falls strongly seems to kill both plants and trees.

362 427 There was much building activity both in the town and on the outskirts of the town, numbers of small houses were built for occupation by their owners and more European style bungalows and flats were built for letting. House rents are excessively high, landlords expect to recover the cost of their property in less than ten years, so building houses for letting is at present a profitable investment. However, so many houses are now being built that it seems possible that in a short time there may be more houses than tenants.

633 342 During the year permits for new buildings were issued by the Municipality for 144 stone houses and 100 barasti huts and permits for repairs and additions to 186 shops and 717 houses were also granted.

1 [A.D. 1951-52 - Analyst]

[Muharraq Municipality]

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There was a small increase in house tax collections but the sum of Rs. 3,370/-, owing to the Municipality, was written off as most of the 853 persons who were indebted had left Bahrain, which suggests some laxity on the part of tax collectors. Shop taxes, including market tax, produced less than in 1371. Shops are divided into two categories and pay Rs. 2/- and Rs. 1/8 per month, which is a very low rate, they should be assessed according to the rentals.

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The total expenditure was Rs. 3,23,600, it was Rs. 66,000 less than the estimated expenditure but exceeded the previous year's expenditure by Rs. 83,000. The largest item of expenditure was on widening roads and most of this amount was spent on compensating house owners for cutting part of their property.

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**Municipal Activities.** Two roads were surfaced with cold patch and another road was metalled and surfaced by the P.W.D., 58 new street lights were installed. The usual town cleaning services were effectively carried out and Municipal Officials were active in supervising the sale of fresh fruit and in inspecting animals in the slaughterhouse.

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During the year 16 new stone houses were built and 1,500 permits were issued for repairing stone houses and shops. Only 53 permits were issued for building or repairing baristis, as against 200 in the previous year. There were 285 unoccupied houses and compounds.

There was some building activity on the northern edge of the town where building plots have been bought from the Government and from the Municipality by persons wishing to build stone houses.

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On his return from England His Highness decided that a public garden should be made on the north side of Muharraq on a large triangular piece of land which was reclaimed from the sea shore by being filled with town rubbish.

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The Finance Committee at the end of the year again submitted a budget showing an anticipated deficit of Rs. 86,000.

## STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1372

| Revenue | | | Expenditure | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| House Tax | Rs. 41,169 3 9 | | Staff Salaries | Rs. 72,698 3 6 | |
| Shop Tax | 23,860 9 0 | | Office Expenditure | 3,450 0 0 | |
| Government Grant | 1,00,000 0 0 | | Transport | 41,010 0 6 | |
| H.H. Grant* | 1,00,000 0 0 | | Upkeep of Roads | 55,874 7 0 | |
| Wood, Ghee and Sheep Tax | 26,673 3 6 | | Widening of Roads | 91,834 4 0 | |
| Rent of Municipal property | 20,731 5 0 | | Town Cleaning | 43,050 8 6 | |
| Building and Mason fees | 3,928 8 0 | | Town Lighting | 4,531 1 0 | |
| Miscellaneous Taxes and Fees | 9,248 7 0 | | Upkeep of Public Wells | 2,180 6 0 | |
| Water Rent | 1,699 0 0 | | Pauper Burials | 5,104 0 0 | |
| | | | Miscellaneous Fees | 3,190 3 0 | |
| | | | Upkeep of Municipal Property | 373 12 0 | |
| | | | Poor Relief | 381 2 0 | |
| | | | | Rs. 3,23,678 0 6 | |
| | | | Surplus of Revenue | 3,632 3 9 | |
| | Rs. 3,27,310 4 3 | | | Rs. 3,27,310 4 3 | |

*Rs. 70,859/- was paid direct to the Government to settle its outstanding account.

## HIDD MUNICIPALITY

651 633 **Finance.** The total revenue was Rs. 28,739, slightly higher than in 1372. At the end of the year there was a surplus of Rs. 6,102. The amount expended was almost the same as in the previous year. At the end of the year His Highness granted Rs. 25,000 to the Municipal funds for building property to increase the Municipal revenue.

The town was clean and well kept and some progress was made in widening the one main street which passes through the length of the town.

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## RAFAA MUNICIPALITY

### which includes East, West and North Rafaa

(From the report of Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalid, President of the Municipal Council)

651 633 363 This Municipality, the last one to be formed in Bahrain, having been established in 1371, carried out its duties successfully during the year. Its revenue was Rs. 37,000 of which Rs. 20,000 was a grant from the Government.

Houses were registered and numbered for the purpose of charging house tax and a piece of land below East Rafaa was laid out as a building area, in conjunction with the Land Department. The Municipality began work on widening the road which passes through East Rafaa and removed part of some houses in order to widen this road.

365 Repairs were carried out to Ain Hinainiyah, the old well on the plain below East Rafaa which provides fresh drinking water, which used to be sold in Manama at a high price, being of superior quality to the artesian well water.

364 Ancient rubbish heaps, which disfigured the edge of the town, were removed and the material was used to fill in deep pits, inside the town, where mud had been dug for building houses.

The Municipality began to establish a regular town cleaning service.

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## MINORS' ESTATES DEPARTMENT

(From the report of Mr. Mohammed Dowaiger, Superintendent of the Department)

471 657 The Department took over the administration of 18 new estates and dealt with 28 compensation cases relating to persons in the employment of the Bahrain Government and the Bahrain Petroleum Company. The value of the estates was Rs. 131,000. Compensation paid by the Bahrain Petroleum Company in cases of death or disablement of employees is passed by the Government to the Minors' Estates Department which pays the persons who are entitled to receive compensation.

657 427 Rents of property administered by the Department produced almost 2 lakhs, the number of properties, including shops, houses, gardens, etc., was 530. The Department sold nine lots of property during the year, for approximately half a lakh and made purchases amounting to Rs. 9,000. The sum of Rs. 15000 was recovered from divers who were in debt to various estates.

## TRAFFIC BRANCH

(Report by Superintendent J. Hyde, Officer-in-charge of the Traffic Section)

363 **Vehicles.** During the year 1372 there was a 32,8 per cent. increase over the previous year
164 in the registration of motor vehicles, bringing the total to 2,822 at the end of the year.

682 **Accidents.** There was an increase in road accidents. The total for the year was 142,
672 27.9 per cent. more than in 1371. Unfortunately, there were ten fatalities as compared with four for the previous year, the highest since 1364. The number of persons seriously injured was 29, an increase of 20.

Thirty-nine pedestrians were involved, three more than in the previous year. Of these, 12 were children of 15 years or under. There were three fatalities with children, including a girl aged 3 years. The only other female casualty was a child aged 6 years, who was injured.

One hundred and fifteen of the total accidents occurred during the day, the remainder, 27, were during the hours of darkness.

Of the fatal accidents, three occurred on the Awal Road, one at night. One near Manama Bus Station, one behind the West Primary School, Manama, one near Ahmedi's Ice Factory, Manama, one near Muharraq Petrol Station (during darkness), one inside the R.A.F. Camp and one on the Sitra Causeway.

Eight cases were taken to Court. In three cases, the drivers were found not to blame.

One cases is still pending.

Five motor-cycles, 11 pedal cycles and six donkey carts were involved in accidents during the year.

Fifty-five cases were prosecuted in the Courts as a result of accidents. In ten cases the persons were acquitted.

363 **Traffic Offences.** One hundred and twenty-eight traffic offences were taken to the Courts.
681 The total fines amounted to Rs. 19,896/-. In four cases the offenders were sentenced to terms of imprisonment.

Thirty-two driving licences were suspended for various traffic offences.

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## PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES

494 **Taxi Cabs and Buses.** There was a considerable increase in the number of these vehicles, especially taxi cabs.

It becomes more difficult each year to provide stands for taxi cabs, and it will soon be necessary to restrict their number.

Arrangements are in hand to fit all taxi cabs with fare meters.

**Driving Tests.** One thousand three hundred and fifty-four driving tests were carried out during the year. Five hundred and twenty-three passed the required standard.

[A.D. 1952-1953 — Annual]

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A road in Manamah

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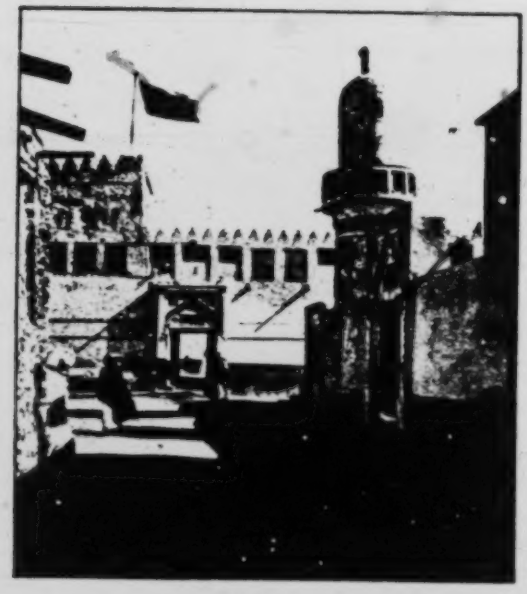

Street in Muharraq

[facing p. 42]

5: Bahrain G-5 (1920-1937) 1937 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

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Modern Villas in Manamah

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A Street in Manamah

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Municipal Garden, Manamah

[facing p. 46 B]